



Nebraska State Accountability

**Grade 5
Reading
Mini-Test**

Name:

Directions:

On the following page is a passage and multiple-choice questions for Grade 5 Reading Mini-Test, a practice opportunity for the *Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA)*.

Each question will ask you to select an answer from among four choices.

For all questions:

- Read the passage. Then answer each question carefully by choosing the best answer.
- Mark your answers for ALL of the questions.

Remember only one of the choices provided is the correct answer.

Musical Royalty: The Duke and Jazz

All That Jazz

Jazz is an American style of music. It is a mix of many types of music. It is made up of ragtime, the blues, and classical music. African American musicians and singers started this style of music.

Jazz musicians do not always play music as it is written. Jazz musicians often make up what they play as they go along. The written notes are just a starting point.

Jazz does not sound soft, and it is not easy on the ears. It is a loud and adventurous type of music. It is always changing.

Edward Kennedy Ellington was an important jazz musician. He wrote and played jazz music. He was also a bandleader. Some people even think of him as a musical genius. His special style of jazz is called the “Ellington sound.”

The Beginning

Ellington was born on April 29, 1899, in Washington, D.C. Ellington began taking piano lessons when he was seven years old. He soon lost interest and stopped practicing the piano. He became interested in drawing and painting. He went to a special high school. He could study art at this high school.

Ellington again became interested in the piano when he was a teenager. When he was seventeen, he started playing the piano professionally. He performed for groups of people. He was a confident and very talented young man. Some of Ellington’s friends nicknamed him Duke. He was soon known as Duke Ellington.

Cotton Club Years

In 1923 Ellington moved to New York City. He hoped to find work as a musician. He played with a band called The Washingtonians. The Washingtonians played at many New York nightclubs. In 1927 The Washingtonians were hired as the house band at the Cotton Club. The Cotton Club was a famous nightclub in Harlem. Live radio shows from the Cotton Club made Ellington famous.

Ellington had a chance to write songs when he was at the Cotton Club. He wrote songs in many styles. Ellington made songs for many record companies. “East St. Louis Toodle-Oo” was his first hit song.

Ellington also experimented with musical sounds. He made instruments produce new sounds. Ellington liked “trumpet screams.” He also made the saxophone “growl” and “wah-wah.” He would use these interesting sounds in his songs. Ellington made music that people had never heard before.

Ellington liked to have the audience take part in his shows. He was one of the first jazz musicians to use call-and-response. He would call out to the audience during a song. The audience would then respond, or call back. Call-and-response was a key part of some of Ellington’s songs.

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Ellington left the Cotton Club in 1931. At this time he was one of the best-known African American musicians.

Ellington's style of music was different from other types of music. He changed the length, feel, and sound of music. Musicians used to record only short songs. Ellington recorded much longer songs.

Sharing His Sound

After leaving the Cotton Club, Ellington went on tour. He and his band traveled throughout the United States and Europe. They played shows in many different cities. Ellington would sometimes return to the Cotton Club for special shows.

Ellington was a popular musician for many years. He wrote and played music into the 1970s. His career as a famous musician lasted more than fifty years.

To stay popular, Ellington changed the sound of his music many times. His songs were always new and interesting. His 1971 album *The Afro-Eurasian Eclipse* shows how creative he was.

An Honored Musician

Ellington was given many awards over the years. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1965. Howard and Yale Universities also gave him honorary degrees. He was the first jazz musician to become a member of the Royal Music Academy in Stockholm, Sweden. Ellington also was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. These awards show just how important Ellington was to the world of music.

A great honor for Ellington was having a school named for him. The Duke Ellington School for the Arts is in his hometown of Washington, D.C. Ellington always studied and practiced music. This makes a school named in his memory very special. The school teaches students who want to make a living as musicians and artists.

In 1974 Ellington passed away. He left many great memories. He also left many great songs. He had a long, **brilliant** career. Ellington was musical royalty. The nickname Duke surely fit him well.

1. Where did the jazz style of music originate?
 - A. Africa
 - B. America
 - C. Cotton Club
 - D. Duke Ellington School

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2. How is jazz music different from other styles of music?
 - A. Jazz is always changing.
 - B. Jazz is a softer sounding style.
 - C. Jazz is played only from sheet music.
 - D. Jazz is played only in nightclubs.

3. What does it mean to make trumpets “scream” and saxophones “howl”?
 - A. Animal sounds are recorded and played through the instrument.
 - B. The musicians scream and howl into the instrument.
 - C. The instruments have special mouthpieces that make these noises.
 - D. The instruments can produce sounds similar to screaming and howling.

4. Under which heading would you find information about important awards won by Duke Ellington?
 - A. The Cotton Club Years
 - B. Sharing His Sound
 - C. An Honored Musician
 - D. All That Jazz

5. In the last paragraph of this passage, it says, "He had a long, **brilliant** career." Which of these examples uses **brilliant** in the same way?
 - A. The athlete ran a brilliant race.
 - B. The scientist was brilliant in chemistry.
 - C. The stars in the night sky were brilliant.
 - D. My friend had a brilliant idea.

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6. What happened to Duke Ellington in 1965?
- A. began taking piano lessons
 - B. left the Cotton Club
 - C. nominated for a Pulitzer Prize
 - D. played with the Washingtonians
7. In what way was Duke Ellington musical royalty?
- A. He wrote and played jazz music.
 - B. He was a member of the Washingtonians.
 - C. He took piano lessons while in high school.
 - D. He had a long brilliant career in music.

Grade 5 Mini-Test Answers

1. B. America
2. A. Jazz is always changing.
3. D. The instruments can produce sounds similar to screaming and howling.
4. C. An Honored Musician
5. A. The athlete ran a brilliant race.
6. C. nominated for a Pulitzer Prize
7. D. He had a long brilliant career in music.